

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

10542 U.S. PTO
09/599095
06/21/00

#2
K. Cobb
10/25/00

Inventor/Applicant: Brad A. Armstrong

Title: ANALOG DOME-CAP SENSOR AND CIRCUITRY

REMARKS:

Dear Sir:

This is a 37 CFR 1.53(b) continuation of my "allowed" co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application titled "VARIABLE-CONDUCTANCE SENSOR WITH ELASTOMERIC DOME-CAP", serial number 09/122,269 filed July 24, 1998 which claimed the benefit of related "allowed" co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application 08/942,450 filed Oct. 1, 1997 which in turn claimed the benefit of a U.S. Provisional serial number 60/059,125 filed Sept. 17, 1997, all of the benefits of which are claimed for the present application.

Additionally, I have a related co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application titled "IMAGE CONTROLLERS AND SENSORS" (as amended), application number 08/677,378 filed 07/05/96 to which I am also claiming the priority of the earlier filing date for the instant application for the common matter, as my disclosure of application 08/677,378 describes rubber dome cap analog sensors in numerous ways and structures. Application 08/677,378 makes or includes a priority claim to U.S. patent 5,565,891, which in turn makes or includes a priority claim to U.S. patent 5,589,828 filed March 5, 1992 for the common matter.

I also have yet another co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application titled REMOTE CONTROLLER WITH ANALOG BUTTON(S), application number 09/148,806 filed 09/04/98.

I also have still another co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application titled COMPUTER MOUSE WITH ANALOG BUTTONS,

application number 09/167,314 filed 10/06/98.

I also have a pending U.S. Non-Provisional application titled GAME CONTROL WITH ANALOG PRESSURE SENSOR(S) filed at the U.S. PTO Feb. 22, 2000, S.N. 09/510,572 as a Rule 1.53(b) continuation of co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application 08/942,450. Brief Summary: A game controller with pressure sensors structured as buttons.

I also have yet another pending U.S. Non-Provisional application titled HAND-HELD CONTROL WITH ANALOG PRESSURE SENSOR(S) filed in April 18, 2000, no serial number yet received). A corresponding PCT application using the same title was filed by myself on May 9, 2000, International application No. PCT/US00/12607.

I also have a pending U.S. Non-Provisional patent application titled ANALOG CONTROLS HOUSED WITH ELECTRONIC DISPLAYS filed May 10, 2000 (no serial number received back as of yet), and a corresponding PCT application of the same titled filed May 10, 2000 International application No. PCT/US00/12840.

I also have a pending U.S. Non-Provisional application titled KEYBOARD WITH DEPRESSIBLE ANALOG SCROLL CONTROL filed at the U.S. PTO May 2, 2000. (no serial number received back as of yet). Brief Summary: A conventional or computer keyboard with analog buttons for controlling window scrolling.

I also have still another co-pending U.S. non-provisional patent application titled DISPLACEMENT JOYSTICK WITH COMPRESSION-SENSITIVE SENSORS, filed Feb. 19, 1999 S.N. 09/253,263. Brief Summary: low cost analog joystick

A listing of all of currently known prior art identified in the prior applications is a matter of record in the application files and none of the prior art of which I am aware is material to the patentability of the present invention in that I do not believe the instant invention is disclosed or suggested by and in the prior art of record. I have not herewith provided copies of such known prior art documents as such copies are present in the file wrappers of my above and below listed applications and or

patents.

In addition to those prior art documents present in the file wrappers of above identified application / patent files, it is also pointed out that in paper number 3 of application 08/942,450, a pre-examination amendment, that I detailed as much as I could about a believed to once exist prior art game controller having at least one depressible button to drive a gear and rotate a rotary potentiometer which creates an analog signal change based on positional change. This rotary drive push button should be considered as prior art even though I have not personally seen it and have only heard that it once existed in the market place.

I also wish it to be known that I have recently conditionally assigned the instant invention, and the invention of my pending application 08/942,450, and the invention of my application serial number 09/122,269, as well as some others, to a small business named ANASCAPE, a limited partnership. Just prior to ANASCAPE entering into the conditional assignment wherein I was paid a substantial amount of money, ANASCAPE had a Patent Law firm perform or have performed additional searching of the prior art. It is not precisely understood by Applicant as to what fields or even what specifically was the target of the search, however, the search seems to have been performed on a database called Questel-Orbit QWEB, and appears to have produced 24 pages of printed information related to sensors. While I do not believe the search discloses prior art that is material to the patentability of the present invention as claimed, I am nevertheless submitting the search results in the interest of the fullest possible disclosure before the PTO.

All 24 pages of the Questel-Orbit QWEB search were provided to Mr. Kelly Tyler, the head decision maker at ANASCAPE around the time of Christmas 1999. The patent search information from Questel-Orbit QWEB provided to Mr. Tyler by his Patent Lawyer

encouraged Mr. Tyler to enter into the agreement and pay me just shortly after he received the search results.

True copies of all 24 pages of the Questel-Orbit QWEB search results are provided herewith, identified by the above specified database name being printed at the top left of each page as well as the page number to the right. I have reviewed the information of the 24 pages and find nothing that is believed to materially effect the patentability of the instant invention, and clearly Mr. Tyler felt the same way since he paid me for entering into the conditional assignment / agreement after he received and reviewed the results of the Questel-Orbit search.

The new claims of the instant invention "may", maybe, maybe not, at least in part read upon the allowed claims of application 09/122,269, (or possibly some other application of mine) thus it is requested that the Patent Office assist in identifying when "if ever" a possible Double patenting situation exists between the instant application and any of my many other currently pending U.S. applications.

I also am the sole Inventor in, and owner of U.S. Patent 5,565,891 issued 10/15/96 for SIX DEGREES OF FREEDOM GRAPHICS CONTROLLER, mentioned above in reference to a priority claim, which is a trackball type controller wherein many different types of sensors are said to be useful therein for detecting force applied to the ball or displaceable ball support members.

I also am the sole Inventor in, and owner of U.S. Patent 5,589,828 issued 12/31/96 for 6 DEGREES OF FREEDOM CONTROLLER WITH CAPABILITY OF TACTILE FEEDBACK, also mentioned above in reference to a priority claim, which is a joystick type controller wherein many different types of sensors are said to be useful therein for detecting force applied to the arm, but which does not include the ability of the arm or main stick (lever) of the joystick to tilt.

I also am the sole Inventor in, and owner of U.S. Patent

5,999,084 titled VARIABLE-CONDUCTANCE SENSOR filed June 29, 1998 and issued as a U.S. Patent Dec. 7, 1999. I also have a pending U.S. Non-Provisional continuation application of VARIABLE-CONDUCTANCE SENSOR 5,999,084. The continuation was filed Dec. 6, 1999 and is application S.N. 09/455,821.

At any time when the Patent Examiner believes the claiming of the benefit of the earlier filing date of any of the above applications not currently claimed for the instant application would be helpful in advancing the instant application toward allowance, the forwarding of such information to Applicant would be appreciated.

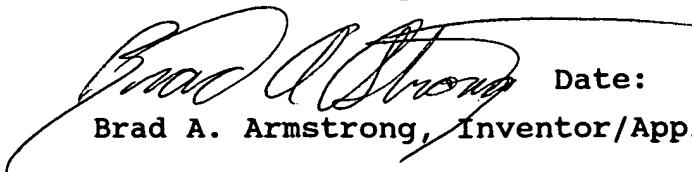
With the filing of this instant application and this Information Disclosure Statement, all information which is known by Applicant (Brad A. Armstrong) and believed to be material to the patentability of the instant invention as claimed has been disclosed in good candor.

I may have additional pending patent applications, both National and PCT, which I may not have listed herein only because of unintentional oversight. Therefore, the patent searching and examining authorities are invited / requested to please search for possible other applications under Applicant's name in both U.S. National and PCT patent applications.

I believe the present claimed invention is patentable over the known prior art.

I also wish the issues pertaining to Double Patenting be considered by the PTO Examiners, as I want everything to be proper when my applications issue as Patents. Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Very Respectfully;


Date: 20 June 2000
Brad A. Armstrong, Inventor/Applicant